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2-8-04  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of

Applicant : S. B. Cirulli, et al  
Serial No. : 09/815,312  
Filed : 22 March 2001  
  
Examiner : Firmin Backer  
Group : 3621  
  
Entitled : System and Method for Leveraging  
Procurement Across Companies and Company  
Groups  
Docket No. : END920000176US1

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**RECEIVED**

JUL 06 2004

**GROUP 3600**

Honorable Commissioner  
for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Advisory Action  
of 27 May 2004, further responsive to the Office action of  
25 Feb 2004, and entered preliminary to consideration of the  
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed concurrently  
herewith.